

Missions for America  
*Semper vigilans!*  
*Semper volans!*



## The Coastwatcher

Newsletter of the Thames River Composite Squadron  
Connecticut Wing  
Civil Air Patrol

300 Tower Rd., Groton, CT  
<http://ct075.org>

S. Rocketto, Editor  
srocketto@aquilasys.com

C/Maj Brendan Flynn, Reporter  
C/A1C Justin Ketcham, Cub Reporter (Trainee)

Vol. VII, No. 07

28 February, 2013

### SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

05 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
12 MAR-TRCS Meeting-Commander's Call  
19 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
16 MAR-O Flights (tentative)  
16-17 MAR-SLS at Camp Niantic  
23 MAR-PT at USCGA (0800-1000)  
23 MAR-TRCS SAREX (tentative 1100-1700)  
23 MAR-CTWG Cadet Competition  
26 MAR-TRCS Meeting  
30 MAR-CTWG SAREX  
  
27 APR-PT at USCGA (0800-1000)  
26-27 APR-CTWG Encampment Staff Training  
  
10 MAY-Ledyard A/S Night (Friday)  
18 MAY-Commander's Cup Rocketry Contest  
  
7-8 JUN-CTWG Encampment Staff Training

09 JUL-CTWG KC-10 O Flight (Tuesday)  
21 JUL0-03 AUG-NESA-Camp Atterbury, IN  
27 JUL-CADET Ball-USCGA

10 AUG to 17 AUG-CTWG Encampment

### CADET MEETING

26 February, 2013

submitted by

C/A1C Justin Ketcham & C/Maj Brendan  
Flynn

C/Maj Flynn gave a talk on the Solar System. He discussed the environments and characteristics of the sun and planets using *Module 5, Space Environment*, in the cadet module series. Two activities followed. First, cadets chose which planet they would visit and what they would bring back to earth. Next, cadets were grouped off and asked by C/Maj Flynn to pick a planet and use a skit to "sell" a tour to their new found environment.

Maj Bourque announced the planned wing SAREX scheduled for 30 March.

Snack break was sponsored by C/AB Gray and consisted of cheese and pretzels.

C/Lt Schultz asked the cadets to make a pledge that by next week they will have studied at least an hour on their modules in order to promote. Ten cadets stepped up and took the pledge.

The AEX activity was arranged by C/A1C Meers and consisted of cadets trying to find out their age in earth years on another planet.

Flight time was run by flight staff, and talk centered around the upcoming Great Start.

In a promotions ceremony, Cadet Keith Trotochaud received the Lindbergh Achievement and was promoted to Master Sergeant. Cadet Austin VanDevander was awarded the Doolittle Achievement and was promoted to Senior Master Sergeant.

Capt Wojtcuk discussed applications for Great Start and Encampment. C/1stLt Daniels informed cadets that if drill test was the only thing holding them back from getting promoted, they should e-mail him directly.

2dLt Meers was awarded a certificate of appreciation for his work on setting up cadet aviation and maritime simulator activities.

Cadets were informed about PT and dismissed.



*Cadet Trotuchard has qualified for the Lindbergh Achievement and promotion to C/MSgt.*

*Mrs. VanDevander attaches C/SMSGt insignia to her son's collar. Cadet VanDevander has earned the Doolittle Achievement*



*2dLt Meer displays a Certificate of Appreciation received from DCC Capt Wojtcuk in recognition of his contributions to the program.*

## **SENIOR MEETING**

*26 February, 2013*

The meeting was devoted to training and planning. LtCol Doucette directed instruction on uploading aerial photographs to the computer. Maj Rocketto offered instruction in ICUT. LtCol deAndrade and Capt Farley participated in a conference call with CTWG emergency service officers.

## **SQUADRON LEADERSHIP SCHOOL**

*16-17 March, 2013*

Glen Dains, CTWG Professional Development Officer, has announced that a Squadron Leadership School will be held at Camp Niantic on the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

SLS is designed to teach the basic function of a squadron, improve squadron operations, and develop the individual officer's capabilities within the squadron.

Prerequisites are achievement of Level I and enrollment in a specialty track.

The cost is nominal.

Contact Maj Glen Dains at [pdo.ctwg.cap.gov](mailto:pdo.ctwg.cap.gov) for further information.

## **AEROSPACE CURRENT EVENTS**

### *AVIATION WOES!*

The U.S. aviation scene has been cursed by a series of problems: material, electrical, and financial.

First, the troubled F-35 aircraft has been grounded after a crack was found in a turbine blade. The crack was found in the third stage of the P&W F135 engine used in the USAF F-35A model.

Some three dozen aircraft used for training and a handful involved in testing are affected by the order. The investigation will be conducted at Pratt's Middletown, Connecticut plant.

The Lockheed-Martin aircraft known as the Joint Strike Fighter has been much delayed and has recorded expenses of some 400 billion dollars! Full production, which is expected to total 2,400 aircraft is planned for 2019.

The USAF also sees issues arising with the procurement of the KC-45 tanker aircraft. At

best, early deliveries will be compromised. A worst, the Air Force may be forced into a renegotiation of the contract with Boeing.

On the commercial front, Boeing, will bring a plan to the FAA regulators which will propose a temporary fix which has grounded the 787 Dreamliner fleet. Failures of lithium ion batteries in two aircraft resulted in fires. The temporary fix will be an insulate containment box.

The Army's hybrid air vehicle, a joint venture between Northrop Grumman and a British firm, has been cancelled.

The football field long airship was to served as a long endurance reconnaissance platform but has failed to meet performance expectations and ran up against financial limitation problems. With our withdrawal from Afghanistan, the mission for the vehicle has been mooted.

Finally, the May 3-5 Langley AFB air show has been cancelled due to the threat of sequestration. Pundits state that unless the budgetary problems are resolved, air show enthusiasts can expect more cancellations. If the budget cuts do occur, Navy officials will probably cancel 30 performances of the Blue Angels.

NASA states that the sequestration action will slow their efforts to establish a commercial space and many small businesses will suffer as the cutbacks are passed on down the line.

Finally, the Transportation Department has announced that budget cuts will severely impact air travel. Furloughs of TSA and ATC personnel may cause delays of up to two hours in flight schedules.

## **AEROSPACE HISTORY**

### *Memories of the First Half of March*

01 MAR, 1924-First flight of the semi-rigid airship N.1 at Ciampino, Italy. Later renamed *Norge*, she is the first airship to fly over the North Pole.

02 MAR, 1969-First flight of the British Aircraft Corporation /Sud Aviation *Concorde*.



*Air France Concorde on display at Udvar-Hazy. Two historic airliners are in the background: the Boeing 307, first pressurized airliner and the prototype to the Boeing 707 which introduces jet travel to the world.*

03 MAR, 1919-First international air mail service is inaugurated when Eddie Hubbard and William Boeing flies a Boeing C-700 series seaplane between Vancouver and Seattle.

04 MAR, 1957-First flight of the Grumman WF-2 Tracer (“Willie Fudd”), an airborne early warning aircraft modified from the S2F, later renamed the E-1B.



*“Willie Fudd,” the “Stoof” with a Roof*

05 MAR, 1936-First flight of R. J. Mitchell's Supermarine Spitfire, piloted by “Mutt” Summers



*Spitfire I, Three of its foes are seen in the background, the Me-110, the JU-88, and the Me-109*

06 MAR, 1953-Boeing delivers the last piston engine bomber to the USAF, a TB-50 Superfortress.



*WB-50D, the weather reconnaissance version awaits refurbishment at the AF Museum*

07 MAR, 1963-First flight of the Hughes OH-6A. The “Loach” from “Light Observation Helicopter” still serves as the “Little Bird” with the elite 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment.



*Army Air Museum display, Fort Rucker, portrays a “Loach” hovering over a wrecked Huey.*

08 MAR, 1917-Count Ferdinand Zeppelin goes West.

09 MAR, 1971-First flight of the TF-8A, a NASA modified Vought Crusader, designed to test Richard Whitcomb's supercritical airfoil.



*NASA TF-8A Displays Supercritical Airfoil*

10 MAR, 1956-Peter Twiss is the first aviator to exceed 1,000 mph flying a Fairey Delta 2.

11 MAR, 1941-President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Lend-Lease Act which allows for the transfer of armaments to other nations whose defense is important for US security.

Approximately 43,000 aircraft will be transferred to nations fighting the Axis powers.

12 MAR, 1946-The Army Air Force School at Maxwell Air Base is re-designated as the Air University



*Aircraft display frames the Fairchild Library at Maxwell Air Force Base, home to The Air University and Civil Air Patrol.*

13 MAR, 1961-First flight of the Hawker Siddeley P.1127 Kestrel, forerunner of the Harrier.



*Experimental VSTOL Kestrel on display at Air Force Museum*

14 MAR, 1927-Pan American Airlines is formed.



*PAA's first office, Key West, Florida*

15 MAR, 1951-Boeing test pilots, flying a KC-97A and a B-47A perform the first aerial refueling by the boom method.



*KC-97 Refueling Boom*



*Boeing B-47B at Griffiss Air Museum*